



August 30, 2021

To The Byram Hills School Community,

Welcome back! This week Byram Hills opens its doors and welcomes our students to a new school year on Wednesday, September 1, 2021. We are excited to have all students in session, grades K-12, and for athletics and extracurricular activities to occur fully in-person. Our faculty and staff have been preparing curriculum, classrooms, and outdoor spaces, and we are ready. Please spend a few minutes to read about the work completed in our schools this summer, and the COVID-19 plans to safely start our new year.

Changes in Our School Buildings

Thanks to our Operations and Maintenance Department, our students and staff will notice changes in each school, including:

Coman Hill

- Generator Install – All the underground work and pad has been completed, and we wait for the delivery of the generator. Coman Hill is currently the only school without a generator.
- LED lighting & ceiling replacement completed in many areas.
- Air conditioning completed in all rooms by the start of school except gym and cafeteria.

Wampus

- New roof over cafeteria completed.
- New walkway bus drop-off/pickup - The walkway and stairs, railing work, and brick walk are complete. The awning will be completed the second week of September (thank you, PTSA!!!).
- LED lighting and ceiling replacement completed in various areas.
- VCT floor replacement completed in three classrooms.
- Upgrade to fire alarm system is ongoing with possible completion date October 1st.
- Purchased and installed five new pieces of playground equipment as part of scheduled replacement.
- Air conditioning in all rooms, except gym and cafeteria.

H.C. Crittenden

- Multi-purpose court complete (Thank you, BHEF!!!!).
- Amphitheater seating at the courts completed.



BYRAM HILLS

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

10 TRIPP LANE ARMONK, NY 10504

- LED lighting and ceiling replacement completed in various areas.
- VCT floor replacement completed in the main entrance and other areas.
- Blacktop roadway completed.
- Air conditioning in each room scheduled to be completed by the first day of school, except library and gym.

Byram Hills High School

- Roadway expansion and paving project completed.
- Tennis Courts resurfaced, with temporary seating until final seating is installed next summer.
- VCT floor replacement completed in various areas.
- Upgrade of fire alarm system project is 95% completed.
- Installation of new score board for the all-purpose field scheduled for October.
- New sportsmanship sign installed (thank you, Boosters!!!)
- Air conditioning in all but 8 classrooms, band room, gyms and cafeteria to be completed this week. Classroom air conditioning project is a year ahead of schedule and will be completed next summer, or earlier.

We are proud of our facilities and making the school environment conducive to teaching and learning.

COVID-19 Safety Protocols

The District will follow the revised guidance from the CDC and NYSED for COVID-19 safety. There have been some changes. While it is now mandated by Governor Hochul that masks must be worn by all in school buildings, the outdoor spaces donated by the BHEF will be utilized to their full potential for teaching and learning. Masks do not need to be worn outside.

A few welcome changes accompany the NYSED guidance:

- Students will be seated three feet apart in classrooms and three to six feet apart at lunch - **and they can talk at lunch.**
- Outside lunch spaces will be offered at HCC and BHHS, weather permitting.
- Music lessons and performance classes will resume, with distancing in place.
- Social distancing is not required on buses, but students must wear masks.



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- Quarantines will be less prevalent for students and vaccinated individuals since the requirements have changed. Please see the NYSED Contact Tracing Guidance below, which follows the CDC Guidance and includes an exception for students who are masked in school. Essentially, we will no longer have to quarantine classes due to an exposure, unless the students have been unmasked for 15 minutes or longer. This is consistent with the fact that we did not experience in-school transmissions last year.

Quarantine Guidance Scenarios

If a student is quarantined by the District, the following will occur:

1. K-5 - If the teacher is notified by the assistant principal by 12:00 pm, the student will enter Google classroom and be notified to meet the quarantine teacher the following day.
2. 6-12 - If the teachers of all subjects are notified by the assistant principal by 12:00 pm, the student will enter Google classroom and can remote into the classroom the following day.
3. If the student is quarantined by the DOH or a doctor OR has already taken a COVID-19 test and is awaiting results, a note must be submitted from the DOH or a clinician to our school nurse prior to 12:00 pm. The student will be provided with access to enter the classroom remotely the following day.

[NYSED GUIDANCE and Quarantine, p. 16](#)



Contact Tracing, in Combination with Isolation and Quarantine

- The CDC recommends school leaders continue to collaborate with local health departments, to the extent allowable by privacy laws such as the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), to confidentially provide information about people diagnosed with or exposed to COVID-19 in their school communities. Doing so makes it possible to identify which students, teachers, and staff with positive COVID-19 test results should isolate, and which close contacts should quarantine.
- School leaders should, to the extent allowable by applicable privacy laws, report new diagnoses of COVID-19 to their local health department as soon as they are informed. School leaders also should, to the extent allowable, notify the teachers, staff, and families of students who were close contacts as soon as possible after they are notified that someone in the school has tested positive (within the same day if possible).
- The [CDC guidance document](#) defines a close contact as someone who was within [6 feet of an infected person](#) (laboratory-confirmed or a [clinically compatible illness](#)) for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period (for example, *three individual 5-minute exposures for a total of 15 minutes*).
Exception: In the **K–12 indoor classroom** setting, the close contact definition excludes students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student (laboratory-confirmed or a [clinically compatible illness](#)) if both the infected student and the exposed student(s) [correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks](#) the entire time. [Additional guidance for wearing masks is available from the CDC](#).
This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting.
- According to the CDC, people who are fully vaccinated do **NOT** need to quarantine after contact with someone who had COVID-19 unless they have [symptoms](#). However, fully vaccinated people should get tested 3-5 days after their exposure, even if they do not have symptoms, and wear a mask indoors in public for 14 days following exposure or until their test result is negative.

We look forward to providing all students and staff with a safe and secure school environment, a distinctive educational experience, and a willingness to adjust to the needs of our changing world, academically, physically, and emotionally. Welcome to a new school year!

Thank you,

Jen Lamia, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools